



## ***DESERT DEVOTIONAL***

***By***

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***June 2011***

**“I will sacrifice a thank offering to you and call on the name of the Lord.”  
Psalm 116:17**

May 22, 1992 was an extremely difficult day for me. It was the day I received a phone call from my mom telling me that my dad, my role model, had died of a massive heart attack. I cried! I sobbed! I was completely shaken to my core. It was the first time that my wife and children saw me broken. I was angry at God for taking this man away from me, and we had words. After a time of feeling sorry for myself, I realized that my dad was dancing with Jesus. My heart was filled with rejoicing as that realization took hold of me. I know I will see him again! My dad is in heaven not for the type of man he was, but because of his faith in his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

There are many times in our lives when we become frustrated with God. We point our finger at Him and beg Him for relief of our problems. During these difficult times, we often forget to thank Him for our trials, for our times in the desert, and we forget to flood our prayers with joy and praise. Many times have I asked God to relieve us of our financial burdens at The Valley, but I neglect praising Him for these same trials which will make us stronger as a school and as a ministry. It may feel awkward thanking God in times of hardship, but through this practice, the Holy Spirit changes hearts and enables us to look at these times with a different perspective.

This upcoming school year, our theme will be one word: **REJOICE!** We all need to focus on the joys and blessings of this ministry: the lives that have been forever changed and the lives that yet will be changed through the power of the Holy Spirit. By rejoicing we will dwell in His presence on a daily basis and will be blessed to continue to witness the miracles that are yet to come.

### **Prayer:**

**Dear Father God,**

**I rejoice in Your Name, I praise You for Your sacrifice of sending Your Son to save us from our sins. Create in me a clean heart and restore unto me the joy of Your salvation. Give me a spirit of praise in times of hardship. Thank you for Your divine protection and I pray that You continue to bless the efforts of our ministry at Wisconsin Valley Lutheran High School. Amen**

Serving Him,  
David Beringer  
Administrator  
Wisconsin Valley Lutheran High School